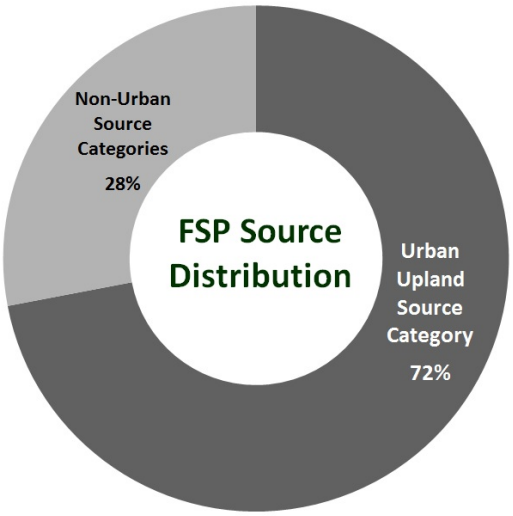
TRACKING AND REPORTING TMDL IMPLEMENTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRACKING AND REPORTING IMPORTANCE

Tracking and reporting TMDL implementation accomplishments allows TMDL Program Managers to assess progress and program effectiveness. Furthermore, regular program accomplishment reporting facilitates program transparency, demonstrates accountability and helps retain support for the expenditure of public funds on water quality improvement actions.

DIFFERENT TRACKING AND REPORTING APPROACHES

Tracking and reporting TMDL implementation accomplishments differs between the Urban and Non-urban Source Categories. The different approaches reflect the Lake Tahoe TMDL research that identified urban stormwater runoff as the dominant source of fine sediment particles (FSP) reducing Lake Tahoe's clarity. Urban stormwater runoff contributes 72 percent of the total FSP load to Lake Tahoe, compared to only 28 percent originating from non-urban sources.



Urban Upland Source Category Approach

The TMDL concluded that attaining clarity goals hinges on attaining FSP load reductions in the Urban Upland Source Category. Therefore, a quantitative load reduction approach was developed to track and report implementation efforts for this source category. This approach uses standardized tools and protocols to estimate FSP and nutrient load reductions from pollutant controls implemented by Urban Implementing Partners. A continuous simulation model developed as part of the *Lake Clarity Crediting Program* is used to estimate the pollutant load reduction potential associated with these actions, coupled with established condition assessment protocols to verify ongoing effectiveness of controls. Urban Implementing Partners then report estimated load reductions, condition assessment findings and associated Lake Clarity Credit declarations in an *Annual Stormwater Report*.

Non-Urban Source Categories Approach

The TMDL Recommended Strategy calls for the implementation of current and existing management strategies and plans to achieve needed load reductions for the three non-urban source categories: Forested Uplands, Stream Channel Erosion and Atmospheric Deposition. Given the relative magnitude of the FSP load contribution from non-urban sources, and the significant complexity and administrative cost associated with the quantitative load reduction tracking and reporting approach, an activity-based tracking and reporting approach is sufficient for the Non-urban Source Categories. This approach uses six TMDL Performances Measures (TMDL PMs) to quantify the extent of pollutant load reduction activities that local, state and federal natural resource management agencies perform. These Non-Urban Implementing Partners track and report the extent to which these water quality improvements activities were implemented. TMDL Program Managers then aggregate the data to evaluate implementation progress for the non-urban source categories.